



Montana

## Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

Michelle Robinson - Communications Director  
(406)-444-1520  
mirobinson@mt.gov  
Fax: (406)-444-1394  
P.O. Box 1728  
Helena, MT 59624-1728

Tyler Turner - Economist  
(406)-444-2992  
tturner@mt.gov

August 18, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **MONTANA JOB GROWTH EQUALS 5,500 IN JULY**

HELENA, Mont. --- Montana's employment rolls expanded by 5,500 jobs from June to July. This was the largest month-to-month increase in 2006. Unemployment rose from 3.5% to 3.8% over the same time period, though Montana's rate still remains well below the national average.

"Record high commodity prices have resulted in strong wage and employment growth in Montana's natural resource and mining industries," said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. "However, the benefits of high prices extend beyond mining workers. With copper selling for over \$3.00 per pound and platinum over \$1,200 per ounce, wage and employment gains are seen throughout many other industries in the state."

Professional and Business Services recorded the largest increase, adding 1,200 jobs in July. Leisure and Hospitality added 800 positions, while Construction grew by 700 jobs. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities and Financial Activities each saw an increase of 500 jobs. Manufacturing increased 400, Government added 200, and Natural Resources and Mining and Information<sup>\*\*</sup> each grew by 100 jobs. Other Services<sup>\*\*</sup> showed no change in employment, while Education and Health Services<sup>\*\*</sup> saw a decline

of 800 positions. This was the second month of decline for this sector, which continued to feel the effects of the end of the school year.

Additional information related to this employment situation press release can be found by visiting the Research and Analysis website at [www.ourfactsyourfuture.org](http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org)

###

*\*Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level. All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to Tyler Turner, Economist with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau.*

*\*\*These industry sectors are not-seasonally adjusted.*

**\*\*\*\*\* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET \*\*\*\*\***

**County unemployment rates are also available in our monthly economic bulletin, *Montana Economy at a Glance*, and on our website.**

**Labor Force data for Montana Indian Reservations is available on the Research and Analysis Bureau's website at:**

[www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=121](http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=121)

**The August 2006 Labor Situation Report will be released Friday September 22, 2006.**